



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020

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Story Map Highlights Economic, Cultural, Environmental Importance of the Pecos River

Diverse cross-section of stakeholders share stories of connection

*[*Visit the Story Map at StopTererroMine.org*](https://www.stoptererro.org)*

Santa Fe, NM – A new story map released today amplifies stories of connection to the Pecos River and surrounding area and the potential damage mining in the area would cause. Comexico LLC, a Colorado subsidiary of Australian mining company New World Resources Ltd, has targeted the area for exploratory mining operations in search of copper, zinc and gold. The area is still recovering from irresponsible mining operations that contaminated the river in the 1990's, killing 90,000 fish and costing millions of taxpayer dollars for cleanup.

This week, the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition – a working group led by local community members of business owners, farmers, conservation advocates, and acequia participantes who are concerned about the proposed mining operations in the Upper Pecos – submitted input on new information filed by Comexico that would extend the permit from one to three years, employ in-ground mid puts rather than surface tanks recommended by best practices, among other significant developments in the proposal.

The story map, created by [CAVU](https://www.cavu.org), features stories from ten different individuals about the economic, cultural, and environmental importance of the Pecos River. A story map is a web-based narrative told through photographs, videos, and maps.

“What is unique about the Upper Pecos Watershed, first of all, would be our quality waters. And the fishing opportunities, the hiking opportunities to be out in the 223,000-acre wilderness, to walk, to explore, to be up in the big trees, to listen to the tributaries that flow into the Pecos and the Pecos itself. Just to hear that water in a desert Southwest environment is a magical experience,” says Kimberly Allen, owner and manager of Pecos River Cabins.

Local community members concerned about the impacts of new mining operations in the watershed surrounding the area near Tererro, New Mexico have come together in opposition to the project. They are joined by [Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham](https://www.governor.nm.gov/governor/michelle-lujan-grisham), a diverse cross section of stakeholders that make up the Stop Tererro Mine working group, and hundreds of New Mexicans who have submitted public comment on the application thus far. The Stop Tererro Mine working group is made up of local residents, business owners, farmers, conservation advocates, and acequia participantes.

“We are in this fight because a mine of this size is going to completely alter not just the 4,600 acres that it's on, but it's going to alter the next 30 miles of river downstream from it,” says Frank “Pancho” Adelo, founding member and president of the Upper Pecos Watershed Association. “If we were to have a mine up there, it would breathe another pressure on the river. The Pecos River faces enough pressure from climate change as it is.”

The Pecos and its watershed are some of the most heavily recreated in the state of New Mexico and supports a robust tourism economy:

- The second most visited recreation destination in NM
- Home to most-visited campground in the state, Jack's Creek Campground
- 140,835 angler days per year
- Nearly \$29 million spent by anglers in 2013
- Over \$18 million spent by hunters in 2013
- 40,000 visitors to Pecos National Historical Park each year
- Pecos National Historical Park visitors spent an estimated \$2.3 million in local gateway regions

Read the full story map and watch all 10 videos at StopTererroMine.org. Below is a full list of speakers:

- Joseph Brophy Toledo, traditional leader and cultural advisor, Jemez Pueblo
- Norman Maktima, world-champion angler and fishing guide
- Frank Adelo, third generation business owner in Pecos
- Kimberly Allen, owner and manager of Pecos River Cabins
- Ralph Vigil, owner of Molino de Isla Organics
- Roberto Mondragon, former NM Lt. Governor and native New Mexican
- Antonio Garcia, 15, Pecos native
- Amor Tabet, 14, New Mexico native
- Kimberly Sheehan, Santa Fe veterinarian
- Rachel Conn, projects director with Amigos Bravos

Interviews, images and access to download or embed the video are available upon request. Please reach out to Deputy Director Liliana Castillo at 575-219-9619 or liliana@cavu.org.

CAVU is Climate Advocates Voces Unidas, a nonprofit that uses visual storytelling and community engagement to support local solutions to the global climate problem.

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